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ABSTRACT

An evaluation was conducted of the first seven platoons (59 inmates) of male juveniles who entered the Bay County (Florida) Sheriff's Office Juvenile Boot Camp between June 1994 and August 1995. Findings include: the typical boot camp graduate was a 16-year-old male; 49 percent were black; the graduates averaged 7.7 delinquency cases before boot camp admission, more than half of which involved felonies (most frequently, burglary); the average length of stay was 138 days; as a group, the boot camp graduates increased one grade, 2 months in reading, one grade, 7 months in mathematics, and one grade, 8 months in spelling; aftercare services were provided by several community juvenile agencies; of the graduates, 52 percent successfully completed aftercare, and 36 percent were employed; and 49% of the graduates were readjudicated or convicted on new charges during the first year after graduation, about the same percentage as that of a matched control group of youths released from other moderate and high-risk residential commitment programs. It was recommended that further evaluation be conducted to determine which program components contribute to the achievement of program components, and not solely to outcomes. Contains 18 tables and 5 figures. (KC)

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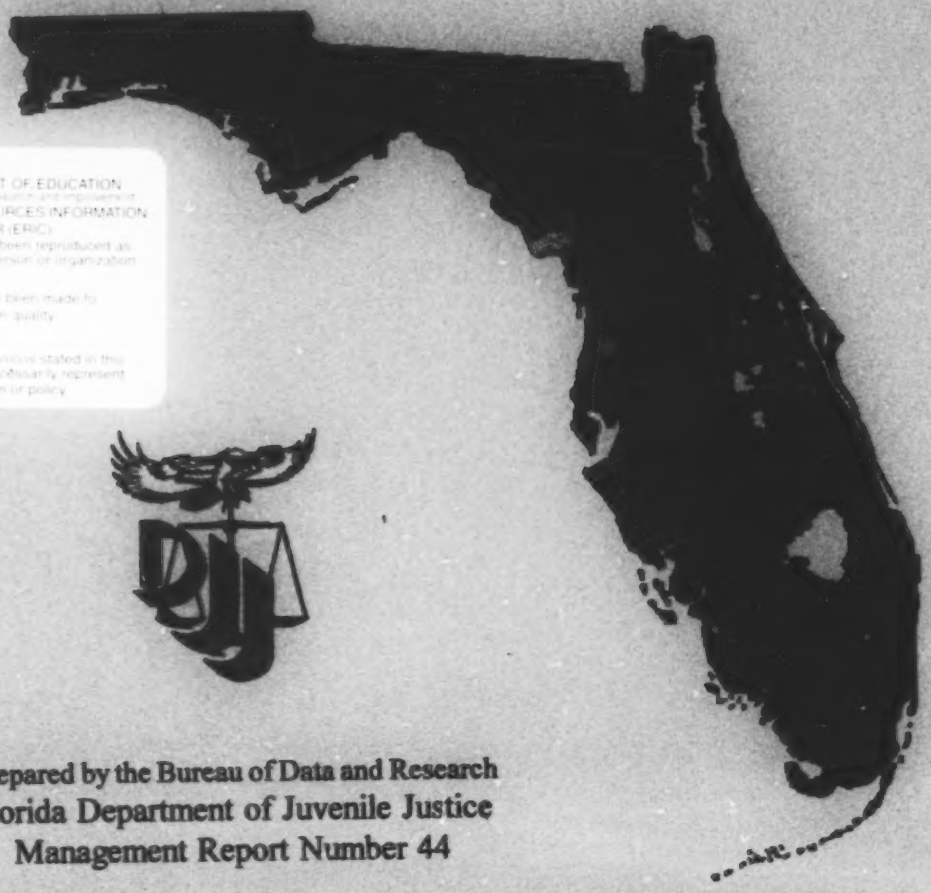
BAY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE JUVENILE BOOT CAMP

A FOLLOW-UP STUDY OF THE FIRST SEVEN PLATOONS



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Prepared by the Bureau of Data and Research
Florida Department of Juvenile Justice
Management Report Number 44

February 1997

LAWTON CHILES
GOVERNOR

CALVIN ROSS
SECRETARY

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STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

February 1997

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to present our latest report, *Bay County Sheriff's Office Juvenile Boot Camp: A Follow-Up Study of the First Seven Platoons*. Produced by the DJJ Bureau of Data and Research, this report is the fifth in a series of statutorily mandated evaluation reports on the boot camp programs.

This report focuses on the first seven platoons of juveniles to attend Bay County Sheriff's Office Juvenile Boot Camp (BCSOJBC). The document contains a detailed program description of BCSOJBC and the aftercare providers. Outcome measures for the BCSOJBC graduates include: educational progress, employment placement and subsequent criminal activity within one year of release from the program. Outcomes are compared with those of an matched group of juveniles released from other DJJ programs.

Many agencies, including the Bay County Sheriff's Office, the Florida Department of Corrections, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and the Florida Department of Education, assisted in the data collection efforts required to produce this report. Without their cooperation, comprehensive outcome evaluations of DJJ programs would not be possible.

To request additional copies of this report, please contact John Joyce, the DJJ Public Information Officer, at (904) 921-5900 or Suncom 291-5900.

Sincerely,

Calvin Ross
Secretary

Bay County Sheriff's Office Juvenile Boot Camp
A Follow-Up Study of the First Seven Platoons

Prepared by the Bureau of Data and Research
Florida Department of Juvenile Justice
Management Report Number 44

February 1997

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Many agencies assisted in the data collection efforts required to produce this report. Without their cooperation, comprehensive outcome evaluations would not be possible. The Department of Juvenile Justice wishes to acknowledge the contributions made by the following parties in the production of this report.

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- The Florida Department of Education, Division of Administration, Education and Information Accountability Services, especially Lavan Dukes and staff, and the staff at Florida Education and Training Program (FETPIP) including Jay Pfeiffer, Kelly Unglub and Theresa Miller.

Requests for additional copies or questions about this report should be directed to:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Bay County Sheriff's Office Juvenile Boot Camp: A Follow-Up Study of the First Seven Platoons

Boot camps are part of the broad continuum of programs operated under the direction of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). Bay County Sheriff's Office Juvenile Boot Camp was the fifth juvenile boot camp to open in Florida. As part of the department's commitment to evaluating juvenile justice programs, this is the fifth in a series of studies examining Florida's juvenile boot camps. This report focuses on the first seven platoons to enter the Bay County Sheriff's Office Juvenile Boot Camp. General findings of this report include:

- Sixty-two recruits entered Bay County Sheriff's Office Juvenile Boot Camp between June 1994 and August 1995.
- Fifty-nine of the 62 recruits admitted in the first seven platoons graduated from boot camp. One recruit was sentenced to jail for offenses he committed before boot camp admission. One recruit escaped from boot camp, and was tried in adult court and sentenced to jail. The third recruit was transferred to another DJJ commitment program after two days when it was discovered he had knee problems.
- The typical Bay County Sheriff's Office Juvenile Boot Camp graduate was a 16 year old male.
- Forty-nine percent of the graduates were black.
- The graduates averaged 7.7 delinquency cases before boot camp admission, over one-half of which involved felonies.
- The largest proportion of graduates were committed for felony property offenses. Burglary was the specific offense for which recruits were most frequently committed to Bay County Sheriff's Office Juvenile Boot Camp.
- The average total length of stay, including the time "recycled" to boot camp for noncompliance with aftercare rules, was 138 days.
- As a group, the boot camp graduates increased approximately one grade two months in reading, one grade seven months in math, and one grade eight months in spelling on the Wide Range Achievement Test (WRAT).
- Aftercare services were provided by either Commodore Success Center Aftercare Program (CSC), operated by Gator Human Services, the Student and Family Enhancement program (SAFE), operated by Associated Marine Institutes (AMI), or DJJ Re-entry services.
- Fifty two percent (52%) of the graduates successfully completed aftercare.

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- Boot camp graduates who were successfully released from aftercare averaged 5.5 months of aftercare services.

- Available data indicates that 36 percent of the graduates were employed after release from boot camp.

- Sixty-four percent (64%) of the graduates were re-arrested within one year of graduation from boot camp. Forty-nine percent (49%) have subsequently been re-adjudicated or convicted on new charges. These results did not differ significantly from a matched comparison group of 59 youths released from other moderate and high-risk residential commitment programs.

- Boot camp graduates were most likely to be re-arrested for felony property crimes.

- The majority of youth re-arrested were first re-arrested within three months of graduation from boot camp.

INTRODUCTION

Section 39.057(9), Florida Statutes (F.S.) (1995), stipulates that "[t]he department [of Juvenile Justice] shall keep records and monitor criminal activity, educational progress and employment placement of all boot camp program participants..." and that the results shall be compared to juveniles committed to other residential programs. To comply with the requirements of this statute, the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) conducts an outcome evaluation of each of the boot camp programs with comparisons to a matched group of youths who attended other residential commitment programs.

This report is the fifth in a series of evaluations of Florida's juvenile boot camps being conducted by the Bureau of Data and Research of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice.[1] This report focuses on the first seven platoons to be committed to Bay County Sheriff's Office Juvenile Boot Camp (BCSOJBC).

BCSOJBC was the fifth juvenile boot camp to open in Florida. BCSOJBC is located in Panama City, Florida, which is part of DJJ Service District 2. The boot camp primarily serves committed youths in the DJJ North Commitment Service Area which includes DJJ Service Districts 1 and 2.[2] Aftercare services were provided to the graduates by Student and Family Enhancement (SAFE) programs operated by Associated Marine Institutes (AMI), the Commodore Success Center Aftercare Program (CSC) operated by Gator Human Services, and DJJ Re-entry services. A description of the boot camp and the aftercare programs is provided. Outcome measures, including education, employment and subsequent criminal involvement, for both boot camp graduates and a comparison group are presented.

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[1] Other reports include: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (February 1996), *Manatee County Sheriff's Boot Camp: A Follow-up Study of the First Four Platoons*, Management Report 24, Tallahassee, FL; Bureau of Data and Research; Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (August 1996), *Pinellas County Boot Camp: A Follow-up Study of the First Four Platoons*, Management Report 33, Tallahassee, FL; Bureau of Data and Research; Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (November 1996), *Leon County Sheriff's Department Boot Camp: A Follow-up Study of the First Five Platoons*, Management Report 35, Tallahassee, FL; Bureau of Data and Research; and Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (February 1997), *Martin County Sheriff's Office Boot Camp: A Follow-up Study of the First Four Platoons*, Management Report 43, Tallahassee, FL; Bureau of Data and Research.

[2] The North Commitment Service Area (NCSA) encompasses Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Holmes, Washington, Bay, Jackson, Calhoun, Gulf, Franklin, Liberty, Gadsden, Leon, Wakulla, Jefferson, Madison, and Taylor counties.

DEVELOPMENT OF BAY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE JUVENILE BOOT CAMP

Statutory Provisions

In 1989, the Florida legislature authorized the creation of juvenile boot camps. Section 39.057(1), F.S. (1995), describes a boot camp as an "...intensive educational and physical training and rehabilitative program for appropriate children" which requires juveniles to "...participate in educational, vocational, and substance abuse programs, and to receive additional training in techniques of appropriate decision-making, as well as in life skills and job skills" (s. 39.057(4), F.S. (1995). The programs are to be developed as partnerships between state and county governments. DJJ provides operational and fixed capital outlay funds for the development of boot camp programs. Interested county governments have to contribute a facility, land or money.

Admissions

Youths are selected for placement in the BCSOJBC based on criteria specified in Chapter 39, F.S., and input from the juvenile court judge, the DJJ commitment manager[3] and the boot camp. Although statutory requirements were modified as of October 1, 1994, the first two platoons were committed under the original eligibility requirements. Eligibility was limited to juveniles between the ages of 14 and 17 at the time of adjudication who had been committed to the department for:

a) a capital, life, first degree, or second degree felony, or,
b) a third degree felony with two or more prior felony adjudications of which one or more resulted in a residential placement [s. 39.057(3), F.S., (1993)].

Thus, the population originally targeted was the most serious felons, and chronic felons who had previously spent time in a residential facility. After October 1, 1994, eligibility criteria was changed to exclude capital, life, and first degree violent felons, but include those committed to the department for any other offense that, if committed by an adult, would be a felony (s. 39.57(3), F.S., (1995). Platoons three through seven entered under these new rules.

Eligibility for boot camp also depended on the program restrictiveness level ordered by the judge. If a judge decides to commit a youth to the department, he/she must specify the restrictiveness level of the commitment program to which the youth is to be sent. Commitment programs in Florida are classified into five restrictiveness levels: non-residential programs, and low, moderate, high, and maximum-risk residential programs.[4] Originally boot camps were defined as high-risk residential programs under subsection 39.01(61)(d), F.S. (1993). High-risk residential programs are staff secure or physically secure residential facilities that provide 24-hour awake supervision. Statutory changes that took effect October 1, 1994, specifically allowed the designation of boot

[3] Until October 1, 1994, the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services was the state agency which provided services to delinquent youths.
[4] The first maximum-risk residential program opened in July 1995.

camps, including BCSOJBC, as moderate-risk residential programs. Platoons three through seven entered under this revision. The presence of these youths, along with youths transferred to boot camp from moderate-risk residential programs, resulted in a mix of moderate and high-risk youths in the boot camp.

The initial selection of the particular youths to be sent to boot camp is made by the DJJ commitment manager in each district based on suggestions from case managers. He/she selects boot camp as the most appropriate of the programs within the restrictiveness level ordered by the judge. Youths from Bay County specifically, and Districts 1 and 2 generally, have priority for boot camp placement. When beds are available, districts located in proximity to the boot camp are invited to refer eligible youths. The next step in recruit selection is a medical and psychological screening. The boot camp statute requires that youths sent to boot camp be screened to ensure that "...only those children who have medical and psychological profiles conducive to successfully completing an intensive work, educational and disciplinary program be admitted to the program" (s. 39.057(4), F.S. (1995). Each youth has to have a psychological assessment performed no more than one year ago and a physical assessment performed no more than 30 days ago. Youths with a history of psychiatric illness, suicidal tendencies, abnormal EKGs, or other physical problems that make boot camp placement inappropriate, and youths taking psychotropic medications are deemed ineligible for boot camp placement. Youths who have suffered severe physical or sexual abuse are carefully screened to ensure boot camp is appropriate. The final step is a review of each youth's commitment packet by boot camp staff to ensure that all necessary information is included, and to confirm the legal, psychological and medical appropriateness of each potential recruit.

Until March 1995, BCSOJBC operated in a temporary facility that had a capacity of 12 recruits. Recruits entered boot camp in platoons of up to six. Beginning with Platoon 5, the program moved to its permanent facility and capacity increased to 30 recruits. The entry of new platoons, which consist of up to 15 recruits, occurs approximately every 60 days. Although a critical aspect of the military model, the tradition of platoons complicates the admission process. In order for each platoon to enter at capacity, DJJ has to have all new admissions completely processed and in custody on the date of the scheduled admission. Not all youths await admission to the boot camp in secure detention. Therefore, admitting a full platoon is contingent upon DJJ having physical custody of the youths on admission day. Platoons 4, 6 and 7 all entered at under capacity. Admission and release information is provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Admission and Release Profile

Platoons	Admission Date	Release Date	Number of Admissions	Number of Graduates
Platoon 1	06/30/94	10/28/94	6	6
Platoon 2	09/15/94	01/17/95	7	6
Platoon 3	11/17/94	03/20/95	6	6
Platoon 4	01/24/95	05/24/95	5	5
Platoon 5	04/04/95	08/01/95	15	15
Platoon 6	06/13/95	10/10/95	9	8
Platoon 7	08/15/95	12/12/95	14	13
Total Number of Admissions and Graduates			**62**	**59**

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A total of 62 recruits were admitted to boot camp during the time period under study and 59 graduated. One recruit was sentenced to jail for offenses he committed before boot camp admission. One recruit escaped from boot camp, was tried in adult court and sentenced to jail. The third recruit was transferred to another DJJ commitment program after two days when it was discovered he had knee problems. Thus, 59 of the 60 youths who were legally and medically capable of completing the program did so.

BCSOJBC PROGRAM DESCRIPTION[5]

BCSOJBC is a joint project of a number of state and local government entities. The Bay County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) operates the boot camp under contract with DJJ. DJJ provides the majority of funding for the program. The Bay County Commission provided $75,000 in 1995 and 1996 for salary enhancements. The Bay County School District provides educational services and equipment. A citizen's advisory board meets semi-annually with the boot camp commander, DJJ commitment manager and DJJ contract manager. The board provides suggestions for program development, and assist in the identification of community resources. Scholarships for graduates interested in a college education are arranged by the Citizen's Advisory Board with Gulf Coast Community College. Candidates for the scholarships must successfully complete aftercare and be recommended by the boot camp staff.

BCSOJBC is a paramilitary treatment program designed to "...return offenders to society trained both mentally and physically to deal with their environment without committing criminal acts".[6] The program is designed to last four months. BCSOJBC staff first encounter recruits inside Bay County Regional Detention Center (BCRDC). The initial interaction between recruits and boot camp staff is highly intensive. Military customs and courtesies, including the requirement that each recruit start and end all sentences with "Sir" or "Ma'am" are explained. Each recruit is frisked, handcuffed, shackled, and placed in a van. The recruits are driven by the local jail and reminded that failure at boot camp could result in their being incarcerated in the adult system.

Upon arrival at the camp, recruits are removed from the van one at a time. Their heads are shaved, they are escorted inside the barracks, stripped searched and given a uniform. They are instructed to sit in the doorway of their assigned rooms until all recruits have been processed. Recruits are then directed through a line of drill instructors to the physical training area. The commander introduces himself, and reinforces the message that there are strict rules and regulations and that failure to abide by them will bring sure and swift sanctions. The next two to three hours are spent learning how to perform basic exercises (push-ups, sit-ups, etc.). Verbal explanation, demonstration, and practice are the teaching methods. After a noontime meal, orientation is conducted by the commander, DJJ staff, the nurse and the drill instructors. While the response of drill instructors to noncompliance is swift and authoritative, no abusive or derogatory speech is allowed.

The first month of the program is an orientation period. The focus is on acclimating the recruit, who is referred to as "Offender [*Last name*]", to the rules and routine of the program. Areas of training include: drill and ceremony, fire and safety, rules and regulations, the daily schedule and inspection procedures. All rules and regulations are explained in the offender handbook and include: the proper way to address others, meal time procedures, room order, general rights and expected behavior. Recruits are required to read the handbook and sign a form indicating that they understand it. Physical and health assessments are conducted. Every 30 days a re-assessment is made to identify improvement. During the first 30 days, a multi-disciplinary staffing

[5] This section is based on interviews with program staff, observations of the author, and program information found in Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (July 1995), *Program Review for Bay County Boot Camp*. Tallahassee, FL: Bureau of Quality Assurance.

[6] Quote taken from the boot camps mission statement.

team develops an individualized treatment plan that includes detailed goals relating to behavior, education, boot camp drills and ceremony, physical fitness and aftercare plans. The plan outlines specific needs and goals, and the steps needed to reach these goals.

Full programming which includes: schooling, work detail, military drill and ceremony, and physical training, starts the second month. Each day begins at 5:00 a.m. and ends at 9:00 p.m. A breakdown of the weekday schedule appears in Table 2. The largest portion of each weekday is spent in school. Group counseling, based on Rational Emotive Therapy, is conducted by a contracted private psychologist in daily one-hour sessions. Topics covered in the group sessions include: values clarification, moral education, anger control, rational thinking, problem solving, errors in criminal thinking and recidivism prevention. A rule of silence is imposed with the exception of school and group counseling.

Table 2:
BCSOJBC Basic Weekday Schedule

05:00 - 05:15	Wake up
05:15 - 05:45	Physical training or drill and ceremony
05:45 - 06:00	Hygiene
06:00 - 06:15	Room inspection
06:15 - 06:30	Flag ceremony
06:30 - 07:20	Breakfast/clean up
07:20 - 08:00	Sick call
08:00 - 09:45	Academics
09:45 - 10:00	Physical training or drill and ceremony
10:00 - 11:20	Academics
11:20 - 11:30	Lunch preparation
11:30 - 12:00	Lunch
12:00 - 13:00	Hygiene/clean up
13:00 - 15:00	Academics
15:00 - 16:00	Drill and ceremony or physical training
16:00 - 17:00	Rational Emotive Therapy
17:00 - 17:30	Dinner
17:30 - 17:45	Clean classroom
17:45 - 18:00	Flag ceremony
18:00 - 19:00	Drill instructors' instruction time/letter writing/ study period
19:00 - 19:30	Shine boots and general clean-up
19:30 - 20:00	Showers
20:00 - 21:00	Clean-up barracks
21:00	Lights out

The residential phase of the program is designed to last four months. However, length of stay for each recruit is dependent on meeting daily and weekly goals, and progressing through a series of phases designated by four different colored hats. Advancement to the next hat is dependent upon compliance with program rules and regulations, educational progress, and progress in Rational Emotive Therapy. Progress is tracked through a daily contact record book in which drill instructors record the positive and negative behaviors of each recruit. Recruits participate in

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evaluations of their progress every 30 days. Input from the teachers, psychological services team, as well as the daily behavioral record, compiled by the drill instructors, is used to make the decision to advance a recruit. Recruits can be retained until satisfactory progress is demonstrated. Advancement through the hat colors brings additional privileges. After receiving the second hat, recruits are allowed one five minute telephone call and an hour-long visit once a week with family members. After reaching the fourth hat, recruits are allowed to refer to themselves as "Mr." instead of "Offender".

Recruits who complete the program on time attend a transition ceremony designed to signify their accomplishment. Immediate family members are invited to attend. Each recruit receives a certificate indicating that he has completed the residential phase of the boot camp program. The transition ceremony is viewed not as an ending, but as the beginning of a new life outside the camp in which the lessons learned in boot camp will be put to use.

Facility

The boot camp was originally housed in a wing of the BCRDC. In March 1995, the new facility opened in a building specifically designed and built for the program. Recruits in the two platoons are separated into two wings in which single rooms line each side of a wide hallway. Each room contains a bed and a footlocker. Personal items are limited to family pictures, letters and a bible. There are group showers and toilets in each wing. Academic classes, group counseling and meals are held in two classrooms. In each classroom, there is a small office used by the staff for individual counseling. In an attached wing of the building there is a medical room for sick call and administrative staff offices.

Staffing

The boot camp is staffed with people from a variety of backgrounds, including certified law enforcement officers from BCSO, retired military personnel and civilians. The commander of the boot camp is dually certified as a law enforcement and correctional officer and has been employed by the Bay County Sheriff's Office for 15 years. The second in command, who oversees general operations, has 18 years of experience in the United States Army, including eight years as a drill instructor. The final administrative staff member is a secretary. The remainder of the staff are divided into three eight-hour shifts. Four drill instructors and a corporal work each shift. During each shift, the four drill instructors rotate through a series of assignments including direct work with the junior platoon, manning the control room, direct work with the senior platoon, and serving as the roving DI who provides assistance as needed. A corporal supervises the drill instructors. The senior corporal also serves as the training officer.

Educational services are provided by two teachers and a teacher's aide who are employees of the Bay County School District. Psychological services are provided by Life Management Center of Northwest Florida, Inc. The staff person who provides the psychological services is a licensed mental health counselor with a M.A. in psychology. Crisis counseling and some individual therapy is provided on an as needed basis. Medical services are provided by a nurse who is a full-time employee of the boot camp, and a doctor who is contracted to provided services once a week and as needed on an emergency basis.

Staff Training. Through Gulf Coast Community College's Criminology Department, a course of study leading to certification as Drill Instructor I was developed. Training was designed in cooperation with the college, Sheriff's Office, and boot camp staff. Training was designed to meet DJJ training policies and the requirements of Section 39.057(12)(b) (1995). All staff receive 90 hours of classroom training and 120 hours of hands-on-training under the supervision of a Field Training Officer. Topics include legal issues, history of boot camps, overview of DJJ, health and wellness, communications and field training. All staff are trained in the use of a behavior matrix which sets out steps for dealing with rule infractions. The basic premise is establishing that the recruit is aware of the rule, obtaining an explanation for the misconduct, giving the recruit a chance to suggest an appropriate sanction, and immediate imposition of sanctions. The original staff spent a week at Leon County Sheriff's Department Boot Camp in Tallahassee, FL experiencing boot camp as if they were recruits. Subsequent staff are exposed to the experience's of the recruit through a mock orientation period. In addition to the original training, boot camp staff receive a minimum of 40 hours of in-service training each year.

AFTERCARE SERVICES

Under Section 39.057 (7), F.S. (1993), boot camp graduates must receive aftercare services. Beginning in October 1994, statutory revisions specified that all participants in moderate or high-risk residential boot camps receive a minimum of four months of aftercare services (Section 39.057 (6)(b), F.S. (1995). In most cases, boot camp graduates are sent to an aftercare program that provides day treatment (i.e., services are provided to youths during the day at a specified location). Due to limited resources in certain geographic areas, day treatment services are not always available. In these cases, youths are provided DJJ Re-entry services, placed on furlough or post-commitment community control.

Table 3 provides a breakdown of the aftercare service providers by platoon. The majority of graduates attended a day treatment aftercare program. Twenty-three youths did not receive day treatment aftercare services; fifteen were assigned to DJJ Re-entry services, four were assigned to post-commitment community control, and four were placed on furlough. Three youths received aftercare services from more than one provider. One graduate did not receive aftercare services from DJJ because he was serving a previously imposed sentence of adult probation.

Table 3: Aftercare Service Providers By Platoon

Platoons	N	Day Treatment Services				No Day Treatment Services						Combination	
		SAFE Programs		CSC		DJJ Re-entry Services		Post Commitment Community Control		Furlough		Multiple Aftercare Providers	
		N	%*	N	%*	N	%*	N	%*	N	%*	N	%*
Platoon 1	6	4	67%	0	0%	1	17%	0	0%	1	17%	0	0%
Platoon 2	6	4	67%	0	0%	1	17%	0	0%	1	17%	0	0%
Platoon 3	6	4	67%	0	0%	1	17%	0	0%	0	0%	1	17%
Platoon 4	5	5	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Platoon 5	14**	7	50%	0	0%	2	14%	3	21%	2	14%	0	0%
Platoon 6	8	3	38%	0	0%	3	38%	0	0%	0	0%	2	25%
Platoon 7	13	1	8%	4	31%	7	54%	1	8%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	**58****	**28**	**48%**	**4**	**7%**	**15**	**26%**	**4**	**7%**	**4**	**7%**	**3**	**5%**

**Percentages in this table are row percentages, percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number and therefore may not equal 100.*

***One recruit did not receive aftercare services because he was serving a sentence of adult probation.*

DJJ Re-entry services involved assignment of a re-entry counselor who develop a transition plan in conjunction with the boot camp staff. Re-entry counselors provide intensive supervision and oversight of the implementation of the transition plan upon the youth's return to the community. Re-entry services are designed to last a minimum of four months. A minimum of weekly contact with the youths, parents and collateral sources such as school officials or employers is required. Contact decreases based on the youth's positive adjustment to the community. Generally, termination is not allowed until any restitution ordered by the court has been paid. Post-commitment community control is a legal status under which the judge retains jurisdiction over a youth's release. It is often used in situations in which the youths owes restitution. Youths released on furlough status are under the jurisdiction of DJJ. Youths must agree to the conditions

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of a furlough agreement and sign a contract before being released from the commitment program. These conditions and an individualized case plan are the basis for supervision.

Two private contractors, AMI and Gator Human Services, provided day treatment aftercare services to boot camp graduates. Most of the graduates who received day treatment services attended one of the SAFE programs operated by AMI. A few attended CSC operated by Gator Human Services. Descriptions of SAFE and CSC follow.

SAFE Programs[7]

SAFE programs were designed for youths re-entering the community from moderate and high-risk residential facilities. SAFE provided supervision to ensure public safety and sought to assist youths in making the transition from a highly structured environment back to the community. SAFE programs are an extension of AMI's day treatment programs. The day treatment programs were designed for youths committed to low-risk, non-residential placements. Boot camp graduates at SAFE institutes were mixed with youths released from a variety of residential programs and with minimal risk youths who received day treatment services only. Graduates attended the particular program (called an institute) located within the DJJ service district in which they were residing.

In addition to the day treatment program which operated from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., boot camp graduates enrolled in the SAFE program received "extended services". Extended services included supervision until at least 9:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and eight hours daily on the weekends. Emphasis was placed on providing educational and employment placement. Additional curriculum-based programming was provided during these hours. The curriculum focused on life skills, employability, health education, social skills and self concept.

The SAFE program was divided into five phases. Length of stay in each phase depended on individual progress. The first phase began while the recruit was still in boot camp. SAFE staff met with the youth and his family to prepare them for transition to the aftercare program and re-entry into the community. An individual transition plan was developed with input from the recruit, the family, the DJJ case manager, boot camp staff, and school officials. The youth's needs and goals, and the responsibilities of the youth, parent, and SAFE were identified in this plan. Both short-term and long-term goals in the areas of education, family relationships, and behavioral objectives were determined.

Phase 2 began when the youths graduated from boot camp. Recruits went directly from the boot camp to the assigned SAFE institute. During Phase 2, youths were at the institute from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and for eight hours daily on Saturdays and Sundays. The schedule (Table 4) differed slightly depending on individual needs.

[7] This description of the SAFE program is drawn from the SAFE Program Operations Manual and discussions with AMI staff.

Table 4: SAFE's Basic Daily Schedule for Youths in Phase 2	
07:00 - 08:30 a.m.	Transported to Institute
08:30 - 09:00 a.m.	Breakfast
09:00 - 09:30 a.m.	Large Group Meeting
09:30 - 12:00 p.m.	Academics
12:00 - 12:30 p.m.	Lunch
12:30 - 03:00 p.m.	Academics/activities
03:00 - 03:30 p.m.	Large Group Meeting
03:30 - 05:30 p.m.	Extended Services Curriculum Activity
05:30 - 06:30 p.m.	Dinner Prep/Dinner/Clean up
06:30 - 09:00 p.m.	Recreational Activities
09:00 p.m.	Transported Home

SAFE provided transportation to and from the institute. Once youths were returned home each night they were not permitted to leave. Random tracking calls were made each evening to ensure compliance with curfew. Program staff also made random visits to youths' homes targeting high-risk periods such as nights, weekends, and holidays. Youths who violated curfew could be placed on electronic monitoring. Weekly contact was made with the families to discuss youths' progress at school and behavior at home, and to set goals for the next week. Phase 2 lasted for one to two months depending on attendance, program performance, and evidence of appropriate behavior and decision - making skills.

Advancement to Phase 3 was permitted when the youth had demonstrated appropriate behavior and acquired a day and an evening placement. All youths had a day and an evening placement that was designed to meet their goals as outlined in their transition plan. A number of options were available in Phase 3 that combined the institute's day program, employment placement and outside academic programs. Some youths attended school during the day and worked or participated in the institute's program during the evening; others worked during the day and attended night school. Random tracking ensured compliance with curfew. Youths who violated program rules could be returned to Phase 2 or to the boot camp. Phase 3 generally lasted one to two months.

During Phases 4 and 5, the degree of services provided and the extent of supervision decreased. Youths were given the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to live in the community. A community coordinator made daily personal contact with each youth during Phase 4. Phase 4 generally lasted between 45 and 60 days. Promotion to Phase 5 indicated that the youths had an established, legitimate educational and/or employment placement and had continually demonstrated appropriate behavior. Face to face contact with youths was reduced to an "as needed" basis. Phase 5 lasted between 45 and 60 days. Violation of placement or inappropriate behavior during any phase could result in youths being returned to a previous phase.

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Commodore Success Center Aftercare Program (CSC)

CSC is specifically designed for BCSOJBC graduates, but serves a variety of youths being released from moderate and high-risk residential programs.[8] The program is designed to provide a gradual transition between the highly structured boot camp environment and the return to the community. CSC provided day treatment services for a minimum of 12 hours a day, six days a week and four hours a day on Sundays. The minimum length of stay is designed to be four months.

The five programmatic areas include: education, work study, family work, group work, and recreation. On-site school services are provided by a privately contracted teacher employed by Gator Human Services with assistance from the Bay County School District's Exceptional Student Educational Services coordinator. Work study involve the youths in work experiences including the highway clean up program called Adopt-A-Mile and wheel chair maintenance at a local retirement home. On-site work experiences included building and grounds maintenance. Recreational activities focus on team sports in order to teach fair play and reliance upon objective rules of behavior. Athletic activity is viewed as a way to burn off extra energy or anger, and promote concentration in school and group work. For a minimum of 45 days youths are placed on electronic monitoring and are prohibited from leaving their homes after being dropped off by the center. After the electronic monitor is removed, all youths are under a curfew. Curfew is 10 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays, and 11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Youths are drug tested once a month. Repeated violations of electronic monitoring, curfew or the prohibition against drug use can result in a transfer avoidance staffing to determine the need for recycling to boot camp. Table 5 presents the daily schedule for the first two months.

Table 5: CSC's Basic Daily Schedule For the First Two Months

06:00 - 8:00 a.m.	Transportation to center begins
08:00 - 08:20 a.m.	Breakfast
08:20 - 11:50 a.m.	School
11:50 - 12:05 p.m.	Personal hygiene education and program activities
12:05 - 12:25 p.m.	Lunch
12:25 - 12:50 p.m.	Break
12:50 - 02:20 p.m.	School
02:20 - 02:30 p.m.	Prepare for work study
02:30 - 03:40 p.m.	Work study
03:40 - 04:45 p.m.	Recreation
04:45 - 05:00 p.m.	Prepare for dinner
05:00 - 05:30 p.m.	Dinner
05:30 - 06:00 p.m.	Journals
06:00 - 06:15 p.m.	Prepare for therapeutic group
06:15 - 07:45 p.m.	Therapeutic group
07:45 - 08:00 p.m.	Program meeting
08:00 - 10:00 p.m.	Transported home

[8] Gator Human Services operates a similar program called Rattlers Success Center Aftercare Program which provides services for graduates of the Leon County Sheriff's Boot Camp.

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Staff include a program director, two treatment directors, five counselors, a family worker, a teacher and two trackers. The program director had responsibility for overseeing the operation of the program and supervising staff. Counselors govern the day to day activities of the clients. The treatment directors conduct a needs assessment during the first week after the client arrive, and develop a performance contract with input from the DJJ case manager, the family, and the youth. The treatment directors are responsible for monitoring clients' progress throughout their stay. A treatment director leads a therapeutic group each evening, seven days a week. During the 90 minute session the group discuss a daily topic as well as concerns and issues that had arisen during the day. The family worker serve as a liaison with the family and the boot camp. He met with each family before the client began the program to inform the parents about the program and to perform a family assessment. The family worker telephone or visit parents weekly to check on the youth's behavior while at home. The tracker is assign responsibility for monitoring compliance with curfew rules.

The behavioral management system is divide into three levels. Promotion to the next level is based on earning program behavior points and demonstrating social living skills. Promotions brought additional privileges and responsibilities. Points are assigned by a staff member in relation to the tasks on the daily schedule. The client handbook details expected behavior during each activity. Between zero and five points are awarded for performing program tasks depending on how promptly and completely tasks are performed. Special emphasis is placed on explaining to youths what they are doing right (as well as wrong), practicing correct behavior, and praising them for the behavior. To advance to the next level, a certain number of points had to be earned each week, and oral and written exams that are used to assess mastery of social living skills have to be passed. Failure to maintain the minimum number of points for a level during any given week result in the youth being placed on program "probation". If during the probationary week the can be extended one week. Level 1 lasts a minimum of eight weeks. In the beginning, recruits attend the center bas school. After 45 days youths are eligible for public school enrollment and job placement. Level 2 lasts a minimum of 6 weeks. Recruits are allows to request a day off from attending the program. A written description of the way in which this time would be spent had to be submitted and parents/guardians have to agree to assume responsibility for the youth. In addition, days off "cost" 1500 SLS points. The decision whether to authorize the time off is made at the weekly meeting of the treatment team. Requests have been rare, attributable in part to the large number of SLS points requires. Level 3 lasts a minimum of two weeks.

In addition to the program point system, a social living skills point system (SLSP) is used to assist youths in keeping track of how well they are mastering positive interpersonal skills. The SLSP system uses both positive and negative points. Positive points are awarded for positive interactions with other people. Positive points can be exchanged for merchandise (e.g. T-shirts, headphones, hats, candy) at the "point" store, which is opened once a week. Pro-social behavior is also rewarded by admittance to the Officer's Strike Club. After 60 days in the program, and achievement of Level 2 status, youths can request admission to the Officer's Strike Club. To gain admittance to the club a written test had to be passed and the unanimous vote of all staff members had to be received. Youths in the club are visually designated by the color of the hat they wore. Members earn social living points for each day in the club, and receive a discount in the "point" store. Negative points are assessed for inappropriate or irresponsible behavior (e.g., bringing drugs or alcohol into the facility, truancy, stealing, fighting, acting disrespectfully to staff or peers,

refusal to participate in program activities, and destruction of property). To graduate, 95 percent of each series of negative points assessed had to be earned back through completion of an "intervention." Interventions are assigned by staff members and are designed to teach the youths appropriate behavior. A typical intervention involves writing a one-page essay on how a more appropriate behavior could have been used to handle the situation.

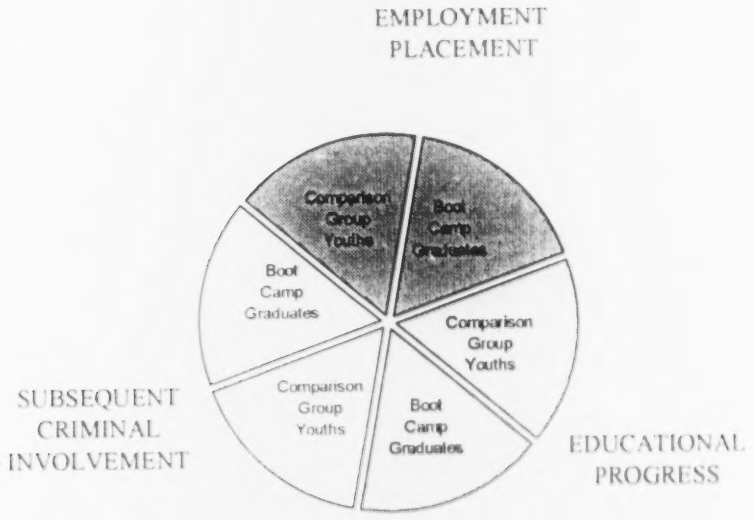
Recycling: Return to Boot Camp

Under a procedure referred to as recycling, youths who fail to conform to the rules of the aftercare program can be transferred back to the boot camp. This practice provides a means of dealing with youths who were not complying with aftercare rules and requirements, but who have not been arrested. Upon the request of the aftercare program, a DJJ administrative hearing is held to determine the appropriateness of transfer. The recycling procedure is only used with youths receiving day treatment services. The recycling procedure differs from being returned to juvenile court on new charges and being recommitted to boot camp (something that did not occur with the platoons covered in this report).

RESEARCH DESIGN

Figure 1 depicts the six sections of the outcome evaluations mandated by Section 39.057 (9), F.S. (1995). This report focuses on the 59 graduates of the first seven platoons to attend BCSOJBC and a matched comparison group of youths who completed other moderate and high-risk residential programs during the same time period.

Figure 1: Outcome Evaluation Components As Specified in Section 39.057 (9), F.S. (1995)



Comparison Group Youths

A comparison group consisting of 59 youths who completed other DJJ residential commitment programs was chosen based both on programmatic and individual criteria. The pool of eligible youths for the comparison group was drawn from the population of males who completed programs of the same restrictiveness levels as the boot camp (moderate or high-risk) located in the same DJJ commitment service area from which BCSOJBC recruits were drawn. In addition, the comparison group pool was limited to those youths released to the community during the same time period as boot camp graduates (October 1994-December 1995). This procedure resulted in youths being drawn from ten DJJ residential programs. In choosing the comparison group, youths were matched on the basis of race, commitment history, commitment offense category, number of prior felony referrals and average age at their first delinquency referral.

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Demographic Characteristics

Data on the youths' demographic characteristics, delinquency and commitment histories, and commitment offenses were obtained from the Department of Children and Families' Client Information System (CIS) and the Florida Assessment, Classification and Tracking System (FACTS). Table 6 indicates that the demographic characteristics, delinquency and commitment histories of the comparison group youths are very similar to the boot camp graduates.

The average age at admission for boot camp graduates was 16 years of age with 48 percent being under 16. The average age at first delinquency referral was 13.1 years and ranged from 7 to 16 years of age. Forty-nine percent of the graduates were black.[9] Fifty-one percent of the graduates were court ordered to a high-risk residential placement. Data on the commitment offense (i.e., the most serious offense for which the judge ordered the youth committed to the department) are also presented. Overall, 78 percent of the recruits were committed for felonies. Close to one-half of the recruits (48%) were committed for property felonies, five percent were committed for felonies against persons, and seven percent were committed for felony drug crimes. Appendix A details the offenses included in each category. In terms of specific charges, the most frequent commitment offense was burglary which accounted for 27 percent of all admissions. Motor vehicle theft charges accounted for the second largest percentage (12%) of commitments to BCSOJBC.[10]

In addition to commitment offense, an examination of recruits' previous offense histories adds to the description of the typical offender in BCSOJBC. Table 6 presents measures of chronicity and seriousness of prior offending for boot camp graduates and comparison group youths. Before boot camp admission, the lifetime average number of referrals for the graduates was 7.7 delinquency cases with an average of 5.6 cases resulting in adjudication of delinquency.[11] Over one-half of these cases involved felony offenses. There was considerable variation among the recruits with regard to the number and type of offenses committed before boot camp admission. The number of previous cases ranged from 1 to 22 with 20 percent having ten or more prior cases. In addition, 54 percent of the recruits had previously been committed to the custody and care of the department, and 46 percent had previously spent time in a *residential* program. In fact, 36 percent of the recruits were transferred to BCSOJBC from another residential program.[12] These youths clearly had a persistent and serious history of offending, in spite of previous attempts at rehabilitation.

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[9] Available data classifies youth as black, white, or Asian. Hispanic data are not available. Hispanics are included in the racial category in which they identify themselves.

[10] A detailed breakdown by platoon of demographic characteristics, and delinquency and commitment histories is provided in Appendix B.

[11] Referrals and adjudications are measured in cases. A case consists of all referrals on a given date. If a youth is referred for multiple offenses on a single date, the offenses are counted together as one case. If the same youth is referred for one or more offenses on another date, this is counted as another case.

[12] This was either an administrative transfer or due to a concurrent recommitment that resulted in a placement change.

Table 6:
Comparison of Boot Camp Graduates and Comparison Group Youths on Demographic, Commitment, Delinquency and Sentence Length Variables

Characteristics	Boot Camp Graduates	Comparison Group Youths
Average age at admission	16.0	16.0
Average age at first delinquency referral	13.1	13.4
Male	100%	100%
Black	49%	48%
Court-ordered to a High-risk Residential Program	51%	44%
Committing Offense:		
Felony Person	5%	5%
Felony Drug	7%	3%
Felony Sex	3%	9%
Felony Property	48%	56%
Other Felony	15%	15%
Other	22%	12%
Delinquency History (cases)[1]:		
Average number of delinquency cases prior to program admission[1]	7.7	8.0
Average number of felony referrals prior to program admission[1]	4.1	4.5
Average number of cases adjudicated prior to program admission[1]	5.6	5.3
Average number of felony cases adjudicated prior to program admission[1]	2.9	3.3
Previously committed to DJJ	54%	54%
Overall average length of stay in days	138	204*
N	59	59

[1] *Figures represent the number of prior referrals and adjudicated cases. A case consists of all charges on a given date. See footnote 11 for further explanation.*

* *Statistically significant difference between boot camp graduates and comparison group youths, $p<0.05$.*

Comparison group youths had very similar demographic characteristics, and delinquency and commitment histories. The only substantive and significant difference between the boot camp graduates and the comparison group is in the average length of stay. Boot camp requires a relatively short length of stay compared to other high-risk residential programs and even some moderate-risk residential programs. Length of stay for boot camp graduates consists of two components: time to graduation plus additional days served under the recycling procedure. The average length of stay before graduation was 127 days. For the subgroup of recruits (n=5) who were recycled to boot camp, total length of stay includes the additional days in boot camp. This increased the overall average length of stay for boot camp graduates to 138 days (18 weeks).

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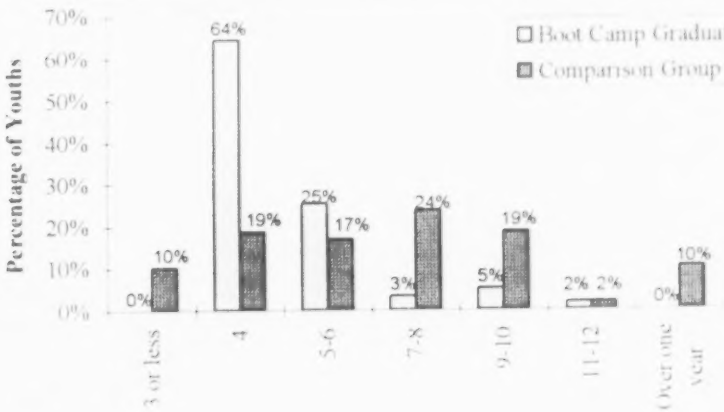
Recycling procedures do not apply to the comparison group, and their length of stay represents the time between a single admission and release date. The average length of stay for the comparison group youths was 204 days (29 weeks). Figure 2 shows the distribution of the length of stay for boot camp graduates and the comparison group.

Figure 2: Length of Stay for Boot Camp Graduates and Comparison Group Youths in Months



The majority of the boot camp graduates spent a total of four months in boot camp. Eighty-nine percent of the boot camp graduates spent six months or less in their program compared to only 46 percent of the comparison group youths. Only two percent of the boot camp graduates spent over 10 months in their program compared to 12 percent of the comparison group youth.

Outcome Measures

Five categories of outcome measures are examined: educational progress, aftercare release status employment placement, recycling to boot camp, and subsequent criminal involvement.

Educational Progress. A variety of measures of educational progress during boot camp and after release were collected. Three measures of educational progress during boot camp are reported: number of high school credits earned, progress towards a General Education Diploma (GED), and the results of standardized educational testing. The Wide Range Achievement Test (WRAT) was administered to all youths at the boot camp.

Another indicator of educational progress is enrollment in an academic or vocational program after graduation. Three sources of information were used to obtain this data. The day treatment providers, SAFE and CSC, provided information as to whether the recruit returned to a public school while in or upon release from aftercare. The Bay County and Leon County School Districts provided enrollment information for youths who enrolled in their respective districts. Florida Department of Education's (DOE) statewide database was accessed to provide information on youths who enrolled outside Bay County.

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Aftercare Release Status and Client Service Days. Youths released from aftercare are classified as either successful or an unsuccessful releases. Unsuccessful release from aftercare occurs for a variety of reasons including: arrest and detention, recommitment or transfer to another residential program or an adult facility, and absconding from the program and not returning. In these cases, the release date is determined by the actions of the youths or others outside the aftercare program. A youth is classified as a successful release when he has progressed through all the phases of the program, and/or the DJJ case manager determines that he is ready for release to the community. The length of aftercare services received is also discussed.

Employment Placement. Information on youths' employment after release from boot camp or the comparison programs was obtained from three basic sources: SAFE, CSC and DOE's Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program (FETPIP). FETPIP obtains employment data from the Florida Department of Labor, Division of Unemployment Insurance to which all Florida employers report wages paid.

Recycling: Return to Boot Camp. As previously described, recruits who receive day treatment services and fail to conform to aftercare rules can be readmitted to the boot camp under a procedure called recycling. The decision to return a recruit to boot camp indicated that aftercare staff felt the youth was at risk for re-offending.

Subsequent Criminal Involvement. Recidivism or re-offending after release from a program can be measured in many different ways. Most often recidivism is defined in terms of cessation of criminal involvement; program participants are dichotomized into successes (i.e., no subsequent criminal involvement) or failures (i.e., subsequent criminal involvement). Cessation of criminal involvement can be measured variously as:

- no subsequent referrals or arrests,
- no subsequent adjudications/convictions, and/or
- no subsequent recommitments/incarcerations.

The measure used depends on the type of information desired. Each measure has drawbacks. For example, using re-arrest as a measure of recidivism both undercounts (much criminal activity goes undetected by the police), and overcounts (some persons arrested are not guilty) re-offending behavior. However, re-arrest is a useful measure for assessing the impact released youths have on police and DJJ resources; each youth re-arrested requires police and DJJ staff to spend time processing the case. The second measure, re-adjudication/conviction is a clearer indication that a youth is, in fact, guilty of the offense charged. This measure may be the most appropriate for assessing the degree to which a program's graduates have succeeded in staying out of trouble with the law. Finally, dispositional information including commitments and incarcerations, provide a broad indication of the seriousness of subsequent offending and the number of youths who will require a bed in a juvenile program or adult facility. All three measures are presented in this report. All figures are based on referrals or arrests that occurred within one year of release and the dispositions that stemmed from those arrests. In addition, the relationship between recruit age, commitment status, aftercare provider, recycling, and re-referral/arrest is examined as is the timing of the first subsequent arrest.

Information from both the juvenile and adult systems was collected in order to obtain a complete picture of re-offending. Data relating to juvenile referrals and dispositions were collected from the CIS database. Adult arrest information was obtained from Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Florida Crime Information Center (FCIC)[13] FCIC includes arrest information on youths who have reached age 18 or whose cases have been transferred to adult court for processing. Dispositional data missing from these two sources were obtained from the court clerks' offices in the 20 judicial circuits and from the Department of Corrections. Arrest records from other states were not examined

[13] Due to concern about the validity and reliability of the data, a careful examination of arrests listed in FCIC and CIS was conducted. When juveniles are transferred to adult court for processing, a record of the arrest can appear in both CIS and FCIC. In some of the cases examined, arrest dates appearing in the two databases differed by as much as five months. In a number of these cases, the arrest date in FCIC appears to reflect the date that the case was transferred to adult court, rather than the date of arrest. Since the date of arrest determines whether an arrest falls within the one year follow-up period, a determination had to be made as to which arrest date should be used. When an arrest for a similar offense appeared both in CIS and in FCIC, the arrest was deemed to be the same event if the date of transfer to adult court in CIS matched the arrest date in FCIC. In these situations the arrest date in CIS rather than in FCIC was used. As date of arrest is being used as a proxy for offense date, it was decided that the arrest date in CIS more accurately reflected when the offense took place.

EVALUATION RESULTS

Educational Progress

Recruits' academic progress while in boot camp is an important measure of the program's impact. Boot camps, like all residential programs, are required to provide a minimum of five hours of schooling a day. The Bay County School District, through the county's alternative high school, provide educational services at the boot camp. The military overlay, with its emphasis on discipline, is evident in the BCSOJBC classroom. The drill instructors are present in the classroom and enforce the requirement that recruits sit at attention, raise their hand to speak and follow the instructions of the teacher. The BCSOJBC classroom differs from many high schools (and colleges) where teachers have to struggle to maintain control. Students are quiet and attentive.

Two teachers divide up the subjects covered which include science, social studies, math, English and Life Management. The educational program is individualized and self-paced. This approach enables recruits to fulfill course requirements and receive course credit regardless of the correspondence between the school district's grading periods and the time in boot camp.

Department of Juvenile Justice records indicate that less than one-half (44%) of the 55 boot camp graduates for whom data were available, were classified as attending school regularly. The remainder were classified as truants (38%), expelled or suspended (14%), dropouts (2%), or frequently tardy (2%). In terms of special educational needs, 26 percent were classified as needing special educational services. Specifically, 10 percent were classified as severely emotionally disturbed or emotionally handicapped, nine percent were classified as severely learning disabled, and seven percent were classified as needing remedial classes.

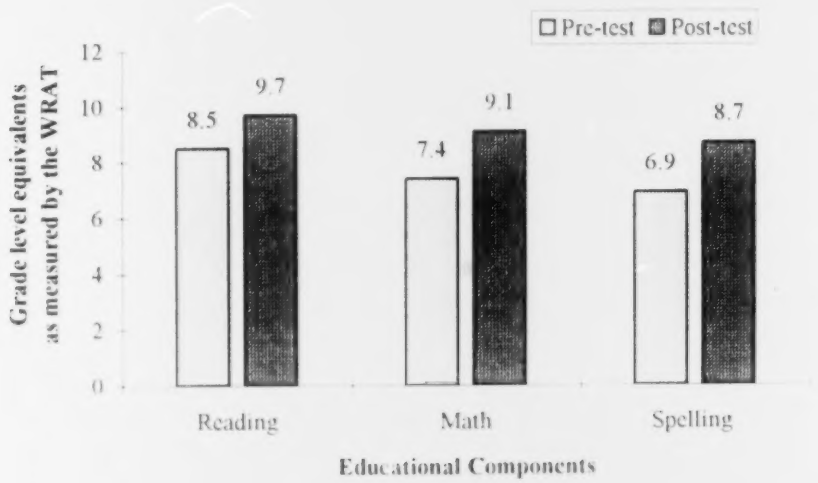
High school credits earned. Graduates of the boot camp program all earned 2.5 high school credits. Given that high school students are expected to earn six credits per year, boot camp graduates earned more credits than would be expected during a four month period. Information concerning the number of high school credits earned was not available for the comparison group youths.

Standardized Tests. All boot camp recruits were administered the Wide Range Achievement Test (WRAT). Comparison group youths were administered the standardized test chosen by the local school district in which the program was located. The resulting lack of uniformity in standardized testing combined with a lack of post-testing resulted in insufficient information on the comparison group youths. No standardized test scores are presented for the comparison group youths.

The WRAT consist of three separate scores (reading, math, and spelling). Each platoon was pre-tested approximately two weeks after entering the program. Post-tests were administered one week prior to release or approximately three months later. Both pre-

and post-tests scores were available for the 45 recruits in platoons three through seven. Pre-and post-test scores, operationalized as grade level equivalents, are presented in Figure 3. As a group, the boot camp graduates increased one grade two months in reading, one grade seven months in math, and one grade eight months in spelling.

Figure 3: Educational Progress During Boot Camp



Reading Scores. The average pre-test score of the reading portion of the WRAT was 8.5. This indicates an achievement level equivalent to that of an eighth grader. This places the group average below what would be expected for a group of 16 year olds. Thirty-eight percent of the recruits' pre-test scores were below the eighth grade level. On the post-test, the average reading score was 9.7 indicating a group increase of one year two months. Twenty percent of the group continued to test below the eighth grade level.

Math Scores. The average pre-test score in math was 7.4. Sixty-nine percent of the recruits' pre-test scores were below the eighth grade level. The average post-test score was 9.1 representing a group increase of one grade and seven months. Thirty-eight percent of the recruits continued to test below the eighth grade level.

Spelling Scores. The average spelling pre-test score was 6.9. The majority (60%) of the recruits' pre-test scores were below the eighth grade level in spelling. The average post-test score was 8.7 which represents a group increase of one year and eight months. Thirty-eight percent of the recruits continued to test below the eighth grade level.

Table 7 presents the average pre- and post-test and overall change scores by platoon. There is no clear relationship between platoon and educational improvement as measured by the WRAT.

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Table 7: Average Pre-test and Post-test WRAT Scores in Grade Level Equivalents for Platoons 3 through 7										
		Reading			Math			Spelling		
Platoons	N	Average Pre-test	Average Post-test	Overall Change	Average Pre-test	Average Post-test	Overall Change	Average Pre-test	Average Post-test	Overall Change
Platoon 3	6	10.2	10.0	-0.2	8.2	9.3	1.1	8.5	9.7	1.2
Platoon 4	3	9.0	9.0	0.0	7.0	8.0	1.0	5.3	5.3	0.0
Platoon 5	15	8.3	10.4	2.1	7.5	9.6	2.1	7.3	8.5	1.2
Platoon 6	8	8.4	9.5	1.1	7.1	9.4	2.3	7.0	11.0	4.0
Platoon 7	13	8.0	9.1	1.1	7.2	8.6	1.4	6.2	8.0	1.8
Total	**45**	**8.5**	**9.7**	**1.2**	**7.4**	**9.1**	**1.7**	**6.9**	**8.7**	**1.8**

Table 8 presents the direction and magnitude of changes in the WRAT scores. For approximately one quarter of the recruits, no change was possible as they scored at the 12th grade level, the upper end of the test. The overwhelming majority of recruits for whom improvement was possible showed improvement of at least one grade level. Recruits were equally likely to improve in math and spelling skills and less likely to improve in reading. The magnitude of the change was dramatic. Forty percent improved two or more grade levels in reading, 54 percent in math skills, and 53 percent in spelling.

Table 8: Direction and Magnitude of Changes in WRAT Scores						
Changes in Grade Levels	Reading		Math		Spelling	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Negative or no change	4	9%	3	7%	1	2%
One grade level	11	24%	7	16%	9	20%
Two grade levels	11	24%	7	16%	7	16%
Three or more grade levels	7	16%	17	38%	16	36%
No room for improvement	12	27%	11	24%	12	27%
Total	**45**	**100%**	**45**	**100%**	**45**	**100%**

General Education Diploma. The third measure of educational progress was receipt of a General Education Diploma (GED). Twelve recruits prepared for their GEDs and seven passed the test. Two more received their GEDs while enrolled in aftercare. For the comparison group youths, available data indicted that seven youths received their GEDs.

Educational Placement After Graduation. The final measure of educational progress examined was the continuation of schooling after release from the program and the aftercare based school.[14] Of the 50 boot camp graduates who did not receive GEDs, available data indicated that 33 youths were enrolled in a public middle or high school, 4 attended a vocational program, three attended adult educational classes, and one was enrolled in community college. Although there is no data to indicate the remaining 9 youths were enrolled in any type of educational program, due to limitations in the data

[14] The 32 boot camp graduates who received day treatment aftercare services were enrolled in school at their respective aftercare programs. The focus here is on whether they continued their education in community-based schools.

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methods it is impossible to definitively conclude that they were not.[15] Available data thus indicates that 85 percent of the boot camp graduates received a GED or continued their education after graduation from boot camp.

For comparison group youths, of the 52 who did not receive GEDs, available data indicated that 24 youths were in high school or middle school, six were enrolled in a vocational program, and three were attending adult education classes. Although there is no data to indicate the remaining 19 youths were in school, due to limitations in the data collection methods it is impossible to definitively conclude that they were not. Available data thus indicates that 68 percent of the comparison group youths received a GED or were enrolled in an educational program after leaving their residential program.

Aftercare Release Status and Client Service Days

One measure of post-release adjustment for the boot camp graduates is aftercare release status. Youths released from aftercare are classified as either successful or unsuccessful releases. Unsuccessful release from aftercare occurs for a variety of reasons including: arrest and detention, recommitment or transfer to another residential program or an adult facility, and absconding from the program and not returning. In these cases, the release date is determined by the actions of the youth or others outside the aftercare program. Successful release depends upon progression through the phases of the program, and/or the DJJ case manager's assessment of readiness for release.

The aftercare services received by boot camp graduates were described in an earlier section. As a group, boot camp graduates received more intensive aftercare services than the comparison group youths. The major difference was that most boot camp graduates (54%) attended a day treatment program in which visual supervision was provided up to 12 hours a day for the first few months after release from boot camp. Only 27 percent of the comparison group youths received such services. Thirty-four percent received DJJ Re-entry services, thirty-four percent were placed on post-commitment community control or furlough and five percent received no aftercare services at all.

Table 9 presents a breakdown of release status by service provider for the boot camp graduates. Twenty-four (52%) of the 46 graduates released from aftercare were successfully released. Given the small number of youths in each program, comparisons among aftercare providers must be made with caution.

[15] When working with large databases, it is necessary to match data by an unique identifier. The most commonly used identifier is social security number. However, if the social security number is missing from a database, or if any of the databases contain incorrect social security numbers, the match will fail. To improve the match rate, alternative matching techniques based on name and date of birth were developed. These techniques also have limitations because they are not sophisticated enough to recognize variations in names (e.g., Robert, Bobby). Given these limitations we can not be certain we have succeeded in matching the available data.

Table 9: Release Status By Service Provider										
Release Status	Service Providers									
	Overall		SAFE		CSC		DJJ Re-entry		Multiple Providers	
	N	%*	N	%*	N	%*	N	%*	N	%*
Successful	24	52%	15	54%	2	50%	5	45%	2	67%
Unsuccessful	22	48%	13	46%	2	50%	6	55%	1	33%
Total	**46****	**100%**	**28**	**100%**	**4**	**100%**	**11**	**100%**	**3**	**100%**

** All percentages in this table are column percentages and are rounded to the nearest whole number.*

*** Nine youths did not received aftercare services and four youths are still enrolled in DJJ Re-entry.*

Table 10 details the reasons for failure to complete aftercare. Overall, the largest proportion of failures were admitted to another DJJ residential program (either transferred or recommitted by the court). Six youth (27%) were sentenced to the Florida Departmentof Corrections. Four graduates absconded from aftercare and no additional information is available as to their status.

Table 10: Reasons For Failure To Complete Aftercare By Aftercare Provider										
Unsuccessful Releases	Overall		SAFE		CSC		DJJ Re-entry		Multiple Providers	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Sent to Florida Department of Corrections	6	27%	5	38%	0	0%	1	17%	0	0%
Absconded from aftercare	4	18%	1	8%	2	100%	0	0%	1	100%
Transferred to another residential program	6	27%	4	31%	0	0%	2	33%	0	0%
Recommitted to another residential program	2	9%	0	0%	0	0%	2	33%	0	0%
Recycled to boot camp and still enrolled*	2	9%	1	8%	0	0%	1	17%	0	0%
Sent to detention	2	9%	2	15%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	**22**	**100%**	**13**	**100%**	**2**	**100%**	**6**	**100%**	**1**	**100%**

** This does not include all youths recycled to boot camp, but only those recycled who have not yet successfully returned to the community.*

Table 11 presents a breakdown of successful releases by platoon with comparable information for the comparison group. The percent of successful releases ranged from a high of 80 percent for Platoon 4 to a low of zero percent for Platoon 1. The comparison group had a higher rate of successful completions from aftercare than boot camp graduates (67 percent versus 52 percent respectively).

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Table 11: Completion Rates and Average Client Service Days for Youths Successfully Released from Aftercare				
Platoons	N	Successful Releases		Average Client Service Days
		N	%*	
Platoon 1	5**	0	0%	n.a.
Platoon 2	5**	3	60%	210
Platoon 3	6**	3	50%	139
Platoon 4	5	4	80%	138
Platoon 5	9**	5	56%	197
Platoon 6	7**	4	57%	123
Platoon 7	9**	5	56%	167
Boot Camp Total	**46****	**24**	**52%**	**163**
Comparison Group Youths	**36****	**24**	**67%**	**126**

* *All percentages in this table are row percentages and are rounded to the nearest whole number.*

** *Some youths did not receive aftercare services or are still enrolled in aftercare.*

Client Service Days The length of time spent in aftercare depended on each recruit's progress as described in a previous section. In calculating the length of time spent in aftercare, two distinctions need to be acknowledged. The first distinction is the difference between client service days and the time period over which services were received. Client service days refer to the actual number of days that a youth received aftercare services. Because youths were sometimes placed on inactive status, the time period over which youths received aftercare services was often longer than the number of client service days.[16] Aftercare services could not always be provided to youths on inactive status.[17] Therefore, the time youths were on inactive status is not included in calculations of client service days.

The second distinction is between client service days for all recruits versus recruits who successfully completed aftercare. For the 46 recruits who have been released from aftercare at this point, the average number of aftercare client service days was 149 days. This varied from 4 to 412 days. Of greater interest is the length of time served by youths who were successfully released from aftercare. Table 11 presents the average client service days for those successfully released from aftercare for boot camp graduates and for the comparison group. For boot camp graduates successfully released from aftercare, the average number of client service days was 163 days or approximately 5.5 months.

[16] Youths are placed on inactive status by DJJ if they abscond, are detained, or are admitted to a substance abuse or mental health facility.

[17] For example, services can not be provided to youths who have absconded. AMI reports that they provided services to inactive youth and their families whenever possible.

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Approximately 25 percent (n=6) of those successfully released received less than four months of aftercare. The average length of stay for the 24 comparison group successfully released from aftercare was four months. Client service days ranged from approximately two weeks to nine months. Approximately 50 percent of comparison group youths received less than four months of services.

Employment Placement

Finding employment is often part of a youth's aftercare plan. The young age of some youths hinders their ability to get jobs. At the time of release from boot camp, 24 (41%) recruits were under 16 years of age, and even at the time of release from aftercare 13 youths (22%) were still under 16. Based on data from FETPIP and as reported by the aftercare providers, 21 (36%) recruits were employed after release from boot camp. Places of employment included fast food and full service restaurants, retail and grocery stores, movie theaters, construction companies, and landscaping firms. No employment was reported for any of the boot camp graduates still under 16 at the time of release from aftercare. Although there is no data to indicate that the remaining 38 boot camp graduates were employed, due to limitations in the data collection methods it is impossible to definitively conclude that they were not.

Twenty-four of the comparison group youths were under 16 at the time of release from their residential programs, and eight were still under 16 at the time of release from aftercare. Based on data from FETPIP and as reported by the aftercare providers, 22 (37%) comparison group youths were employed after release from their residential program. Only one of the eight youths who were under 16 at the time of release from aftercare was employed. Although there is no data to indicate the remaining 37 youths were employed, it is impossible to definitively conclude that they were not.

Recycling: Return to Boot Camp

Another measure of post-release adjustment for the boot camp graduates was the incidence of re-admission to boot camp. Youths who failed to conform to the rules of the aftercare program could be recycled to boot camp. The recycling procedure differs from being recommitted to boot camp on new charges; none of the graduates were recommitted to BCSOJBC after being adjudicated for a new crime. Information on the re-admission history of the 59 graduates is presented in Table 12. Only five graduates (8%) were returned to boot camp for noncompliance with aftercare program rules. The length of stay for a subsequent admission varied from 59 to 167 days with an average of 104 days (3.5 months).

Table 12: Profile of Recruits Recycled to BCSOJBC				
Platoons	Recruits	Recycled to Boot Camp		Average Additional Days Spent in Boot Camp
		N	%*	
Platoon 1	6	1	17%	59
Platoon 2	6	1	17%	92
Platoon 3	6	1	17%	124
Platoon 4	5	0	0%	n.a.
Platoon 5	15	1	7%	167
Platoon 6	8	1	13%	79
Platoon 7	13	0	0%	n.a.
Total	**59**	**5**	**8%**	**104**

* *All percentages in this table are row percentages and are rounded to the nearest whole number.*

Subsequent Criminal Involvement

The final category of outcome measures assess subsequent involvement with the juvenile/criminal justice system. Data on both boot camp graduates and the comparison group are presented. Arrest information from juvenile and adult records was compiled for a period of one year after graduation. Two factors must be taken into account when interpreting the recidivism figures. First, five of the boot camp graduates were recycled to boot camp after graduation and spent an average of 3.5 additional months incarcerated. Second, over one-half of the boot camp graduates spent the first few months after graduation in a day treatment program which provided between 8 and 12 hours a day of visual supervision. These two factors would be expected to reduce the opportunity for recidivism. These factors do not affect the comparison group to the same degree; those youths were not recycled to their residential program and only 27 percent received day treatment services.

Cessation. The first measure of recidivism presented is a cessation measure; did the youths cease all criminal activity for one year after release? Figure 4 details the subsequent involvement with the juvenile/criminal justice system of the boot camp graduates and the comparison group youths. The re-arrest and re-adjudication/conviction rates for the two groups were similar. In the year following graduation from boot camp, 64 percent of the boot camp graduates were re-arrested compared with 58 percent of the comparison group. This difference was not statistically significant. At the time this report was produced 49 percent of both the boot camp graduates and the comparison group youths have been re-adjudicated/convicted. Since six of the boot camp graduates and one comparison group youth have been arrested, but have not had any of their cases reach the disposition stage, the conviction rate for both groups could rise. In terms of dispositions, boot camp graduates and comparison group youths received the various types of sanctions at approximately the same rate. Youths in each group were more likely to receive adult sanctions than juvenile sanctions.

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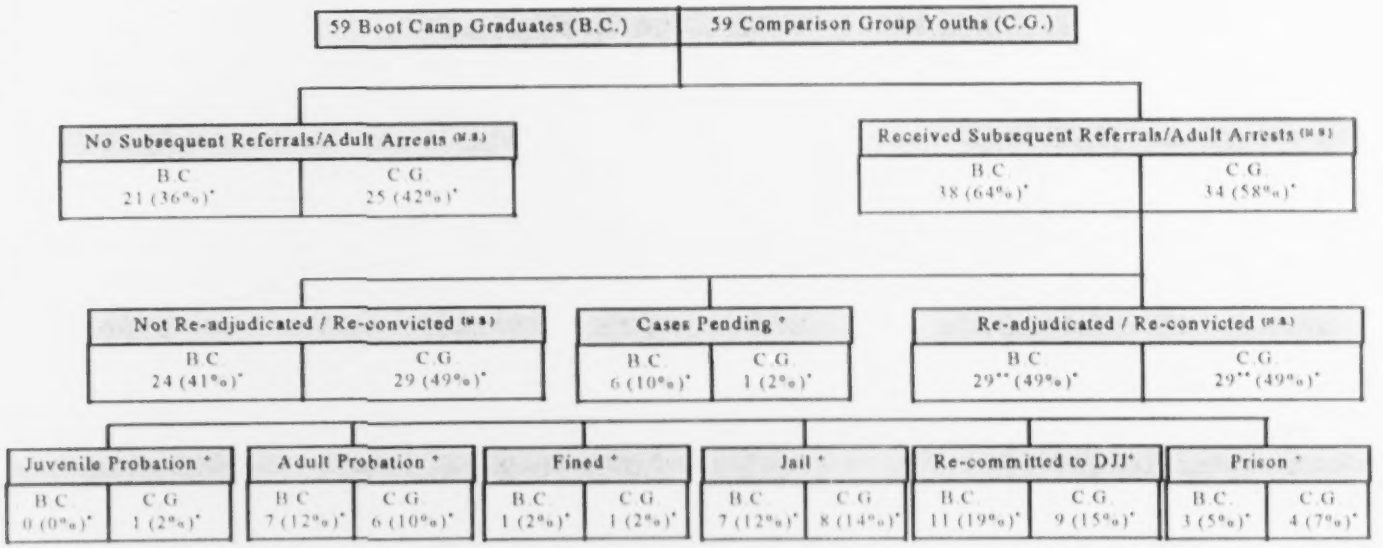
Figure 4: Subsequent Criminal Involvement of BCSOJBC Graduates and Comparison Group Youths Within One Year of Release



* *Percentages are calculated based on the total number of youths and are rounded to the nearest whole number.*

** *This percentage could increase slightly when cases pending are disposed.*

(N.S.) *No significant difference between boot camp graduates and comparison group youths, $p > 0.05$.*

* *Tests of statistical significance could not be run as there was an insufficient number of cases.*

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A breakdown of subsequent criminal involvement of boot camp graduates by platoon, and for the comparison group youths is presented in Table 13. Platoons 1 and 4 exhibited the highest re-referral/arrest rates, while Platoon 2 had the lowest rate. Appendix B reveals that surprisingly Platoon 2 had one of the highest average number of prior felonies. Since the numbers in each platoon are small, these variations must be interpreted with caution.

Table 13: Subsequent Criminal Involvement of Boot Camp Graduates and Comparison Group Youths

Platoons	N	Arrest Status				Adjudication		Selected Dispositions							
		Not Arrested		Re-referred/ arrested		Re-adjudicated/ convicted		Recommitted To DJJ		Adult Felony Probation		Jail		Prison	
		N	%[a]	N	%[a]	N	%[a]	N	%[a]	N	%[a]	N	%[a]	N	%[a]
Platoon 1	6	0	0%	6	100%	6	100%	0	0%	3	50%	1	17%	2	33%
Platoon 2	6	4	67%	2	33%	2	33%	0	0%	0	0%	1	17%	1	17%
Platoon 3	6	2	33%	4	67%	3[b]	50%	3	50%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Platoon 4	5	1	20%	4	80%	3[b]	60%	1	20%	2	40%	0	0%	0	0%
Platoon 5	15	6	40%	9	60%	8	53%	4	27%	1	7%	2	13%	0	0%
Platoon 6	8	3	38%	5	63%	3[c]	38%	2	25%	0	0%	1	13%	0	0%
Platoon 7	13	5	38%	8	62%	4[c]	31%	1	8%	1	8%	2	15%	0	0%
Boot Camp Total	**59**	**21**	**36%**	**38**	**64%**	**29**	**49%[d]**	**11**	**19%**	**7**	**12%**	**7**	**12%**	**3**	**5%**
Comparison Group	***59***	***25***	***42%***	***34[n.s.]***	***58%***	***29***	***49%[b]***	***9***	***15%***	***6***	***10%***	***8***	***14%***	***4***	***7%***

a. Percentages are calculated based on the number of graduates per platoon and are rounded to the nearest whole number.
b. One youth still has a case pending. c. Two youths still have cases pending. d. Six youths have cases pending thus re-adjudication conviction rates could rise.
n.s.: Not significantly different from boot camp graduates, p< 0.05.

Seriousness of Subsequent Offending. A second indication of behavioral change is the seriousness of the charges filed against graduates after release. The most serious charge for which a youth was arrested within one year of graduation is presented in Table 14. Seriousness of offending for both groups clearly decreased. For the boot camp graduates, whereas 90 percent of the 59 graduates had been arrested for felony crimes in the year before program admission, only 49 percent were arrested for felonies in the year following release. Forty-six percent of the comparison group youths were arrested for felonies in the year after release from their residential programs. For both boot camp graduates and comparison group youths, felony crimes against property account for the greatest proportion of re-arrests (20% and 22%, respectively)

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Table 14: Category of Most Serious Arrest Within Year After Release[†]													
Platoons	N	Not Re-Arrested		Felony Person		Felony Drug Offense		Felony Property		Other Felonies[†]		Other	
		N	%[*]	N	%[*]	N	%[*]	N	%[*]	N	%[*]	N	%[*]
Platoon 1	6	0	0%	1	17%	2	33%	2	33%	0	0%	1	17%
Platoon 2	6	4	67%	0	0%	0	0%	1	17%	1	17%	0	0%
Platoon 3	6	2	33%	1	17%	1	17%	1	17%	0	0%	1	17%
Platoon 4	5	1	20%	1	20%	1	20%	4	80%	0	0%	0	0%
Platoon 5	15	6	40%	1	7%	2	13%	2	20%	0	0%	2	13%
Platoon 6	8	3	38%	0	0%	1	13%	1	13%	0	0%	3	38%
Platoon 7	13	5	38%	1	8%	4	31%	1	8%	0	0%	2	15%
Boot Camp Total	**59**	**21**	**36%**	**5**	**8%**	**11**	**19%**	**12**	**20%**	**1**	**2%**	**9**	**15%**
Comparison Group	***59***	***25***	***42%***	***7***	***12%***	***4***	***7%***	***13***	***22%***	***3***	***5%***	***7***	***12%***

[†] *See Appendix B for description of offenses included in each category.*

[*] *Percentages are calculated based on the number of graduates per platoon and are rounded to the nearest whole number.*

Recruit Age and Subsequent Arrest. Table 15 indicates that for the boot camp graduates, the highest rate of re-referral/arrest was for 14 year olds who also had the highest average number of prior felony cases. The highest rate of re-referral/arrest for comparison group youths was among 17 year olds whose average number of prior felony cases was among the highest for the comparison group (4.9).

Table 15: Comparison of Re-arrest Rates and Average Number of Prior Felony Cases by Age of Admission						
Age at Admission	N		Percent Subsequently Referred/arrested		Average Number of Felony Cases Before Program Admission	
	B.C.[*]	C.G.[**]	B.C.[***]	C.G.[***]	B.C.	C.G.
14 years	10	13	90%	62%	6.0	5.5
15 years	18	18	61%	56%	3.3	3.4
16 years	19	13	58%	54%	4.7	5.0
17 years	9	9	56%	89%	2.8	4.9
18 years	3	6	67%	17%	2.3	3.5
Total	**59**	**59**	**64%**	**58%**	**4.1**	**4.5**

[*] *B.C. = boot camp graduates* [**] *C.G. = comparison group youths*

[***] *All percentages in this table are row percentages and are rounded to the nearest whole number.*

Commitment Status and Subsequent Arrest. Youths were admitted to the boot camp and the comparison group programs under a variety of commitment statuses. Table 16 presents a breakdown of re-arrest rates by commitment status for the boot camp graduates and the comparison group youths. Over 50 percent of youths in both groups had previously spent time in a residential program. Eleven (33%) percent of the boot camp graduates and 8 (13%) of the comparison group youths were recommitted to DJJ

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after having previously been discharged or placed on furlough. Forty-six percent both groups were first time commitments to DJJ. There is no clear relationship between commitment status and re-arrest rates.

Table 16: Comparison of Re-arrest Rates Rates and Average Number of Prior Felony Cases By Commitment Status

Commitment Status	Youths		Percent Subsequently Referred/arrest		Average Number of Felony Cases Before Program Admission	
	B.C.*	C.G.**	B.C.***	C.G.***	B.C.*	C.G.**
First commitment	27	27	59%	44%	2.6	3.2
Recommitted from furlough or discharge status	11	8	45%	75%	3.7	5.0
Concurrent recommitment	8	10	75%	70%	5.1	5.6
Transfer from another residential program	13	14	85%	64%	6.7	3.0
Total	**59**	**59**	**64%**	**58%**	**4.1**	**6.0**

** B.C. - boot camp graduates* *** C.G. - comparison group youths*

**** Percentages in this table are row percentages and are rounded to the nearest whole number.*

Aftercare Status and Subsequent Arrest. Table 17 presents information concerning boot camp graduates' aftercare status at the time of their first re-arrest. Of the 38 recruits re-arrested, 37 percent were re-arrested while enrolled in aftercare. Eight recruits were re-arrested after being successfully released from aftercare.

Table 17: Aftercare Status of Boot Camp Graduates When First Re-arrested

Platoons	Number Re-arrested	First Re-arrested while enrolled in aftercare		First Re-arrested after absconding from aftercare		First Re-arrested after being successfully released from aftercare		First Re-arrested after being recycled to boot camp and escaping	
		N	%*	N	%*	N	%*	N	%*
Platoon 1	5	3	60%	2	40%	0	0%	0	0%
Platoon 2	2	1	50%	0	0%	0	0%	1	50%
Platoon 3	4	1	25%	1	25%	2	50%	0	0%
Platoon 4	4	2	50%	1	25%	1	25%	0	0%
Platoon 5	4	1	25%	2	50%	1	25%	0	0%
Platoon 6	5	3	60%	0	0%	2	40%	0	0%
Platoon 7	7	4	57%	1	14%	2	29%	0	0%
Total	**31****	**15**	**48%**	**7**	**23%**	**8**	**26%**	**1**	**3%**

** Percentages in this table are row percentages and are rounded to the nearest whole number.*

*** Eight youth were placed on post-commitment community control or furlough and one youth was serving a sentence of adult probation.*

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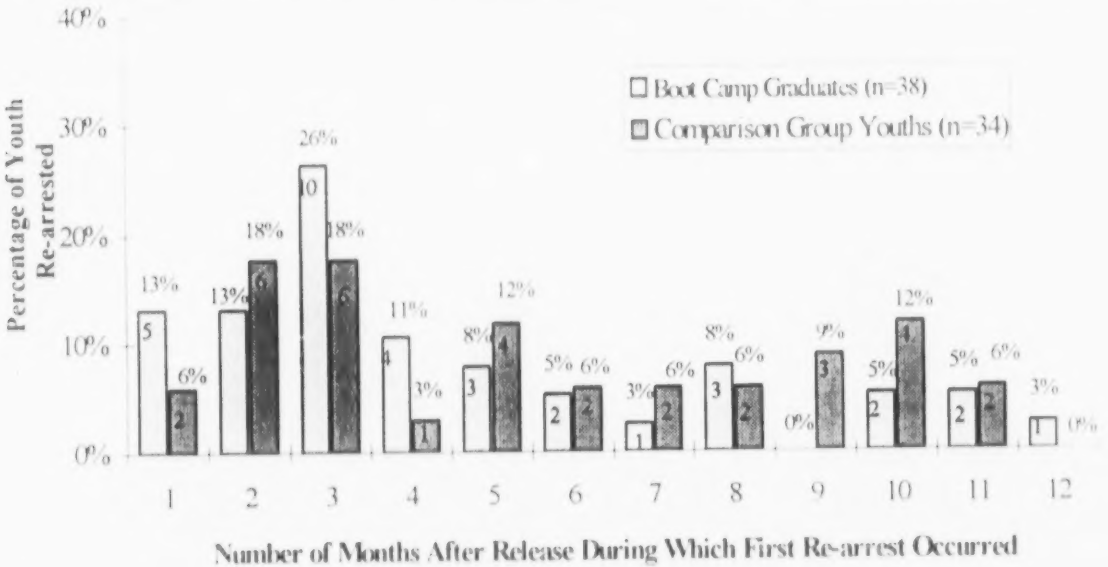
An arrest during aftercare did not automatically lead to release from aftercare. Of the 24 recruits successfully released from aftercare (see Table 9), five had been arrested one or more times during their enrollment in aftercare and three were charged with felonies. Since being successfully released from aftercare, only one of the five has been arrested again.

Timing of the First Re-arrest. Figure 5 presents the timing of the first re-arrest for the 38 boot camp graduates and the 34 comparison group youths who were re-arrested within one year of release. For the boot camp graduates, the first re-arrest occurred between 8 and 347 days after release from boot camp. A quarter of all the youths re-arrested were arrested between 61 and 90 days after release. Slightly over one-half of all graduates re-arrested were re-arrested within the first three months after release.

For the 34 comparison group youths re-arrested, the first re-arrest occurred between 20 and 317 days after release from their programs. As with the boot camp graduates, a large percentage (42%) of those re-arrested were re-arrested within the first three months. For the comparison group the peaks in youths re-arrested occurred in the second and third months.

Figure 5: Percentage of Youths Re-arrested By Month of First Re-arrest



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Subsequent Offending of Graduates Recycled to Boot Camp. Table 18 shows the subsequent involvement with the justice system of recycled and not-recycled graduates. A slightly lower percentage of graduates who were recycled were re-arrested (60%) as compared to graduates not recycled (65%). None of the recycled graduates received a prison sentence as compared to three (6%) of the graduates not recycled. Due to the small number of recruits recycled, any conclusions drawn about the effectiveness of recycling must be made with caution.

Table 18: Relationship Between Recycling and Re-offending

Recycled Status	N	Arrest Status		Selected Dispositions			
		Re-referred/ arrested		Recommitted to DJJ		Sentenced to Prison	
		N	%*	N	%*	N	%*
Recycled	5	3	60%	1	20%	0	0%
Not-recycled	54	35	65%	10	19%	3	6%
Total	**59**	**38**	**64%**	**11**	**19%**	**3**	**5%**

** All percentages in this table are row percentages and are rounded to the nearest whole number.*

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DISCUSSION

Summary

This report presents findings on the first seven platoons to graduate from BCSOJBC. Outcome measures are compared to a matched comparison group of juveniles who completed other delinquency programs. Standardized educational testing indicated that, as a group, the graduates exhibited an increase of approximately one grade two months in reading, one grade seven month increase in math, and an one grade eight months increase in spelling on the WRAT. Fifty-two percent of the boot camp graduates successfully completed aftercare as compared to 67 percent of the comparison group youths. Evidence of continuing education or receipt of a GED was found for 85 percent of the boot camp graduates and 68 percent of the comparison group youths. Evidence of employment was found for 36 percent of the boot camp graduates and 37 percent of the comparison group. The lack of data that indicates employment or continuing education does not conclusively indicate that neither has occurred due to previously discussed limitations of the data collection methods.

Overall, the boot camp graduates and the comparison group youths do not differ significantly in the likelihood of subsequent involvement in criminal activity. Although the re-referral/arrest rate for the comparison group youths (58%) was slightly lower than the rate for boot camp graduates (64%) this difference is not statistically significant. Observed differences could be due to random chance. The re-adjudication/conviction rate for both groups was 49 percent. However, there are six boot camp graduates and one comparison group youth who have been arrested but have not had a case reach the disposition stage. Depending on the outcomes of these cases, the re-adjudication/conviction rates could rise for one or both groups. In terms of dispositions, boot camp graduates and comparison group youths received the various sanctions at approximately the same rate. Both groups were more likely to receive adult sanctions than juvenile sanctions.

Limitations

The most serious limitation of this study is its focus on outcomes to the exclusion of an examination of program components and how these components affect expected outcomes. The outcome measures stipulated in Section 39.057 (9) F.S. (1995) focus exclusively on graduates' behavior after they have left boot camp. The focus on change in educational progress, employment and criminal involvement after release from boot camp is premised on the expectation that boot camp programming will affect these three areas. However, no measures have been implemented to assess the way in which specific components of the boot camp contribute to change in these areas. It is important to examine how program components such as education, job skills, behavior management, substance abuse education, counseling, physical training and labor, and military-style drill and discipline affect employment procurement, increased educational attainment and acceptable rates of recidivism. Without such an examination, it is impossible to identify which components of the program contribute to changes in the outcomes of interest. Consequently, an empirically derived understanding of why behavioral changes occur is lacking.

Recommendations

If evaluation research is to provide the information needed to refine commitment programs, it is not enough to examine whether or not certain objectives were met. We need to expand our focus from strictly outcome measures (e.g., reduce re-offending, increase educational levels) to understanding the relationships between program components and outcomes. Program development needs to include a theoretically based model of how program components will contribute to the achievement of program objectives. This model should delineate the process by which programming is expected to improve youths' values and attitudes, and how changes in values and attitudes are expected to result in changes in performance and behavior. We need to understand how the external control of behavior provided by the rules and regulations of boot camp programs is hypothesized to lead to the internalization of pro-social attitudes and values. This type of process evaluation allows researchers to assess which components of a program contribute to desired changes. Replication of effective programs and modification or elimination of the ineffective components is then possible.

Appendix A: Categorization of Offenses Based on CIS Referral Codes

Felony Person: includes murder/non-negligent manslaughter, negligent manslaughter, armed robbery, other robbery, aggravated assault and/or battery, resisting arrest with violence, and shooting/throwing a deadly missile into an occupied dwelling/vehicle.

Felony Drug: includes felony violations of drug laws.

Felony Sex: includes sexual battery and other felonious sex offenses.

Felony Property: includes arson, burglary (breaking and entering), auto theft, grand larceny, receiving stolen property valued at over $100, and forgery and uttering.

Other Felony: includes concealed firearm, escape from a training school, secure detention, or a community-based residential program, and "other felonies" (CIS code 20). CIS code 20 includes all other felony offenses not specifically identified in the coding scheme. This results in an undercounting of the other categories to an unknown degree. For example, battery on a law enforcement officer is sometimes classified in CIS as an "other felony", not as aggravated assault and/or battery.

Other: includes all misdemeanor charges and non-law violations of community control.

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Appendix B: Demographic Characteristics, Delinquency and Commitment Histories, and Commitment Offense of Boot Camp Graduates by Platoon

Profile by Platoon				
Platoons	**N**	**Average Age at Admission**	**Percent Black**	**Court Ordered to High-Risk Residential Commitment Program**
Platoon 1	6	15.9	50%	33%
Platoon 2	6	15.8	33%	100%
Platoon 3	6	15.9	67%	100%
Platoon 4	5	16.4	40%	6%
Platoon 5	15	15.9	33%	40%
Platoon 6	8	16.0	88%	38%
Platoon 7	13	16.1	46%	31%
Total	**59**	**16.0**	**49%**	**51%**

Delinquency and Commitment Histories by Platoon						
Platoons	**N**	**Average Number of Cases Before Boot Camp Admission***	**Average Number of Felony Cases Before Boot Camp Admission***	**Average Number of Cases Adjudicated Before Boot Camp Admission***	**Average Number of Felony Cases Adjudicated Before Boot Camp Admission***	**Percent Previously Committed to DJJ**
Platoon 1	6	8.5	5.7	6.0	4.0	100%
Platoon 2	6	10.3	5.7	7.8	3.3	50%
Platoon 3	6	12.5	6.7	8.2	4.2	83%
Platoon 4	5	6.0	2.2	3.8	1.8	40%
Platoon 5	15	6.7	3.3	4.9	2.3	40%
Platoon 6	8	4.8	3.2	3.6	2.4	50%
Platoon 7	13	7.3	3.5	6.0	2.8	46%
Total	**59**	**7.7**	**4.1**	**5.6**	**2.9**	**54%**

* *All referrals occurring on a single date are counted as one case.*

Commitment Offense By Platoon**													
Platoons	**N**	**Felony Person**		**Felony Drug**		**Felony Sex**		**Felony Property**		**Other Felony**		**Other**	
		N	**%***	**N**	**%***	**N**	**%***	**N**	**%***	**N**	**%***	**N**	**%***
Platoon 1	6	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3	50%	1	17%	2	33%
Platoon 2	6	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	4	67%	1	17%	1	17%
Platoon 3	6	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	2	33%	0	0%	4	67%
Platoon 4	5	1	20%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	20%	3	60%
Platoon 5	15	1	7%	2	13%	1	7%	8	53%	2	13%	1	7%
Platoon 6	8	1	13%	0	0%	0	0%	4	50%	2	25%	1	13%
Platoon 7	13	0	0%	2	15%	1	8%	7	54%	2	15%	1	8%
Total	**59**	**3**	**5%**	**4**	**7%**	**2**	**3%**	**28**	**48%**	**9**	**15%**	**13**	**22%**

* *All percentages are row percentages and are rounded to the nearest whole number.*

** *Appendix A details the offenses included in each category.*

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Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (February 1996). *Manatee County Sheriff's Boot Camp: A Follow-up Study of the First Four Platoons*, Management Report 23. Tallahassee, FL: Bureau of Data and Research.

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